



CODY REGION newsletter

2016 hunting season: Cody check station numbers



A hunter checks in her first deer at the Cody check station.

Each year, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department operates a game check station at the bottom of the South Fork Hill in Cody from Nov. 1 through Nov. 10. By law, all hunters must stop when they pass a check station regardless of whether or not they have harvested an animal.

This year, despite higher than average temperatures, the Cody check station saw a good number of adult buck mule deer checked in from Hunt Areas 110-113. Below is a chart with the total number of adult buck mule deer checked in at the Cody check station from 2006 through 2016.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Deer HA 110	8	4	10	19	20	11	19	23	27	31	22
Deer HA 111	60	94	44	45	46	42	43	65	38	55	60
Deer HA 112	72	96	57	87	71	57	67	72	43	68	71
Deer HA 113	75	93	66	52	52	44	45	82	51	60	89
Total	215	287	177	203	189	154	174	242	159	214	242

Total number of adult male bucks checked in at the Cody check station that were harvested in Hunt Area 110-113 from 2006-2016.

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Calendar:

Dec. 7

Public meeting to discuss black bear hunting seasons. 6 p.m., Big Horn Federal Bank in Cody



Of interest

2016 hunting season photos



A non-resident family with a pronghorn antelope buck harvested in Hunt Area 81.



Ashley Sowerwine with a nice buck harvested near Cody.



Cody Wildlife Biologist Doug McWhirter checking an outfitted hunter near Fall Creek.



Blaine Kroger of Worland harvested this 5x7 whitetail buck in Hunt Area 41.



Dukes Murray of Jackson harvested this bull from Hunt Area 49.



Tayten Barhaug of Powell harvested this fine bull elk from Hunt Area 61 in early October.



Greybull Game Warden Bill Robertson checks a deer at the Shell check station while Habitat and Access Supervisor Brad Sorensen removes the retro pharyngeal lymph nodes for chronic wasting disease testing.

Of interest

2016 hunting season continued



Felix Lentsch of Worland with his first deer.



Erin Woolley with her first antelope that was harvested in Hunt Area 91.



Above: Lonnie Jenerette of Baggs just arriving back at the Ishawooa Mesa Trailhead from a successful hunt.



Left: Two hunters retrieve an elk harvested on Carter Mountain in Elk Hunt Area 59.



Left: A hunter checking in a deer at the Cody check station.



Right: Biologist technician Juliann Terry takes a sample from a hunter harvested animal for chronic wasting disease testing at a check station in Hyattville.

In the water

4-H students become fish biologists for a day

Recently, members of the Hot Springs County 4-H Sport Fishing Club had a unique opportunity to participate in a mark-recapture population estimate of trout in the Bighorn River.

Cody Region Fisheries Biologist Joe Skorupski said that populations of trout are estimated annually using a mark-recapture method. "This fishery is highly valued and sampling it annually is critical to make informed management decisions," Skorupski said.

"Over four consecutive days, we electrofished a reach of the Bighorn River from Wedding of the Waters to the Eighth Street Bridge in Thermopolis. Each day, captured fish are marked, processed, and released. We then analyze the ratio of marked to unmarked fish captured to determine trout abundance," Skorupski said.

Throughout the day when crews stopped to process captured fish, several young 4-H members along with leaders Dick Staiger and Joel Farber of Thermopolis had a hands-on opportunity to participate. The youth helped biologists determine species and collect weight and length of individual fish. "The kids had a great time and we appreciated having them along to help out," Skorupski said.

4-H leader Joel Farber said, "For me, the opportunity to be a leader in our community 4-H program is a blessing and a joy. I think the experience the kids had on the Bighorn River helps them better appreciate this special part of Wyoming where we live."

Farber continues, "But I think the experience is most important because the kids have fun. We sometimes forget how important it is that we have some fun in our lives, and that having fun is a particularly important aspect of being a kid. Our

4-H sport fishing program starts with the kids sitting around a big table learning fly tying. The kids could probably learn the techniques for tying a fly nearly as well from watching a YouTube video at home, but I think they come to 4-H because we have fun together, and sometimes learn something new along the way."

Skorupski said that based on what was sampled, trout in the Bighorn River continue to do well. "We continue to see exceptional numbers and quality of fish for both brown and rainbow trout," Skorupski said.

Left: Fisheries Biologist Joe Skorupski, Porter McCumber, and Eli McCumber measure captured fish. In the background: 4-H member John Maier, volunteer John Thurman, and 4-H Leader Joel Farber.



(From left to right) Owen McCumber, Porter McCumber, Fisheries Biologist Joe Skorupski and Eli McCumber show off a nice rainbow trout captured on the Bighorn River during sampling.



4-H Leader Dick Staiger helps 4-H students prepare to release captured fish.



On the ground

Work on Yellowtail WHMA

An underground irrigation pipeline that was recently installed on Yellowtail Wildlife Management Area washed out last month due to an estimated three inches of precipitation the area received in October. The washout is 15-30 feet wide and over 600 feet long. Repairs are planned for early next year before the 2017 irrigation season begins. The transmission pipe feeds water to a portion of the Upper Merrill fields, which are north of Pond 6. In 2015, Wyoming Outdoorsmen, purchased \$8,000 of gated irrigation pipe to enhance wildlife habitat in this portion of the wildlife habitat management area.



Above: A washout that recently occurred on Yellowtail WHMA.

Left: Habitat and Access Biologists Eric Shorma and Craig Swanson replaced 3/4 of a mile of a boundary fence on Yellowtail.

Osterland attends National Law Enforcement Leadership Academy

Recently, Cody Regional Wildlife Supervisor Alan Osterland graduated from the National Conservation Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (NCLELA) in West Virginia. Osterland attended the academy for a two-week period in April and one week in September.

The mission of the academy is to prepare conservation law enforcement executives to effectively carry out their job responsibilities adaptively in a rapidly changing world. The focus of NCLELA is to provide the practical skills and knowledge needed by those in executive-level conservation law enforcement leadership roles in local, state or federal agencies. NCLELA works to create a stream of leadership that understands the world as it's going to be tomorrow.



Osterland receiving a graduation certificate from NCLELA.